

SOURCES OF LOVE AND HATE

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willed. We have had innumerable tussles with him of a more or less tempestuous nature but he has come smilingly through them all and has given in over every point except meals, and the latter are a nightmare. It started at fifteen months over tea time and has now spread to every meal. He would sooner go without rather than eat rusks, toast and bread and butter. About six weeks ago I tried starving him for twenty-four hours, after which for over a fortnight his meal times were a joy to us all and he put on twenty ounces. Since then he has relapsed again, first whined over his tea, messed it all up and had nothing, next, the same procedure over his breakfast and finally over his dinner. He loves his milk (one pint per day at most) and would eat porridge *ad lib.*, or cake, but I will not allow that, and if he refuses or throws his rusks about I take all his food away and leave him without. By the next meal time it is evident he is ravenous but has no intention of yielding and keeps himself going on a mug of milk. He will, on the other hand, eat a huge quantity if he goes out to tea, but he will not do so at home whether Nanny or Daddy or I give him his tea. He is equally bad with any of us."

4. "My little boy is two years old, and until now has been quite normal in his habits. He has taken his meals regularly and although not voracious has eaten normally. One day a fortnight ago he began playing with his dinner, a thing he never does, and when I began to feed him he protested and wanted his pudding first. I really thought he was just being stupid and went on with his dinner, but he then spat it out, scattering it all over his chair, so I took it away and got his pudding but he also refused that, so we made no more fuss, and I realised or thought that he had had an aversion to his dinner on that day, and that perhaps I was unreasonable in persisting. However, at tea all was well and also at breakfast next day, but every day since he has refused dinner. For two

days I just took him his dinner and he said, '
No, no/ so not
wanting to sicken him I immediately removed it
and he had
his nap and nothing to eat until tea-time, and
he didn't want
anything to eat I could see. To-day, I thought
I would try
dinner again but as soon as he saw it he
screamed and nothing
would induce him to touch it. What am I to
do ? He isn't
a bit spoilt."
5. "Directly any suggestion of food is
mentioned or she
(aged 23) sees the table being laid she whines
and screams and
declares she doesn't want any food. I have
had the doctor in
and he has given her tonics but they seem to
have no effect.
I have asked him to examine her throat as she
usually seems
to have trouble in swallowing, but he says
there is nothing